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(71) Applicant(s)

Danisco Flexible Limited
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)
Hill House, 1 Little New Street, LONDON, EC4A 3TR,
United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)

John Fairweather
Lisa Fenwick

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Withers & Rogers
Goldings House, 2 Hays Lane, LONDON, SE1 2HW,
United Kingdom

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(54) Abstract Title

A bag openable at a preformed closed end

(57) A bag comprises a closed end and an open end 9 to receive contents, eg food, which may subsequently be closed, the closed end being preformed, eg. with a line of weakness 10, so it can be opened and reclosed to allow removal and repackaging of the contents. The closed end may comprise a gusset formed of two folds 12, 13 with one of these folds 12 extended relative to the other 13 to form a closure flap. The line of weakness 10 may comprise perforations in the inward-facing wall of the extended fold 12. A reclose tape 11 may be provided at the closed end of the bag across the inner layer of extended fold 12 near fold line 2 which may be used to attach the fold 12 to the bag on the other side of opening line 10 (figs. 1-3). Alternately, the reclose tape may be located so that it runs along the line of perforations 10, is held by adhesive on both sides and may be peelable on one or both sides so that the bag can be opened along the line of perforations and re-closed using the tape (fig.4).

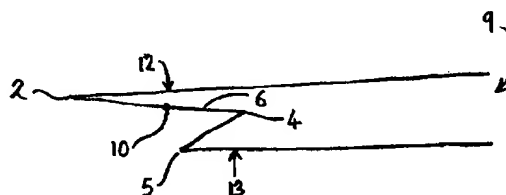
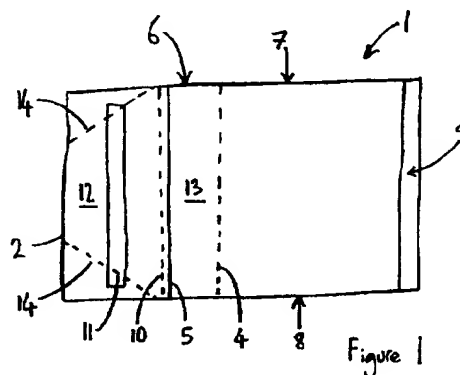


Figure 2

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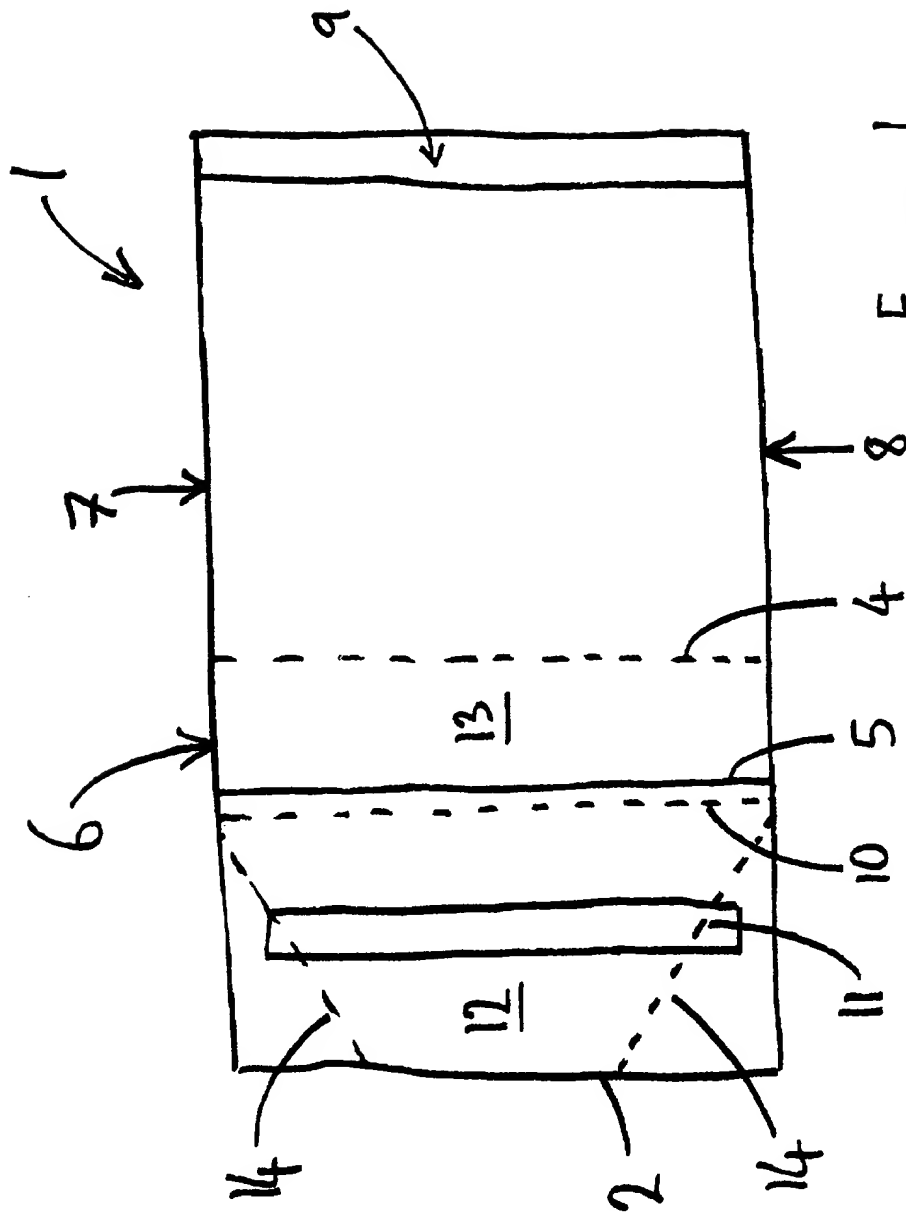


Figure 1

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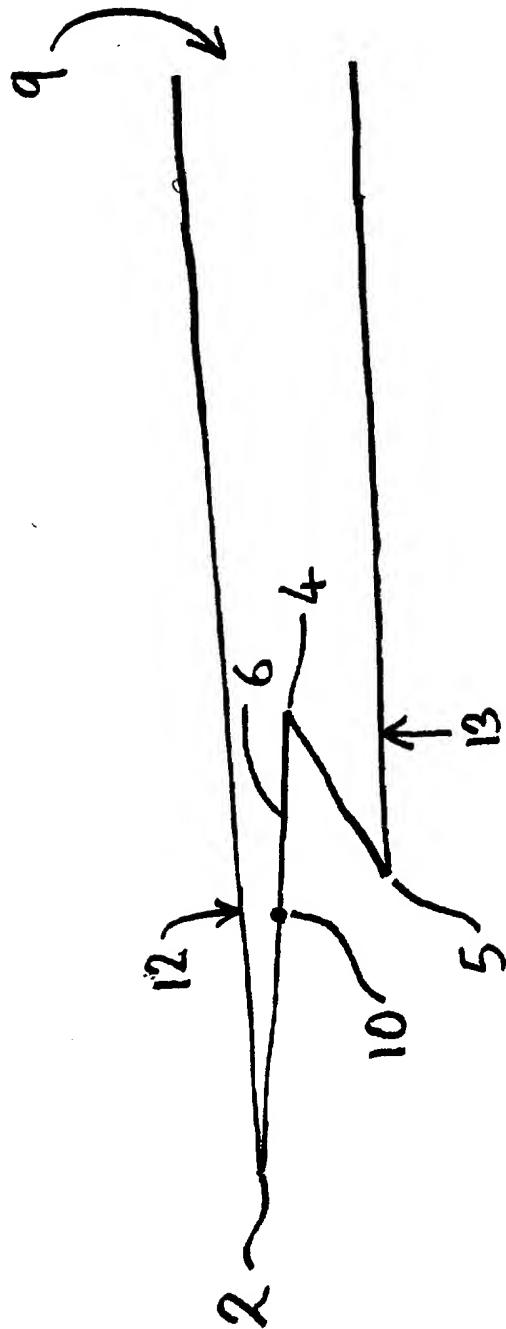


Figure 2

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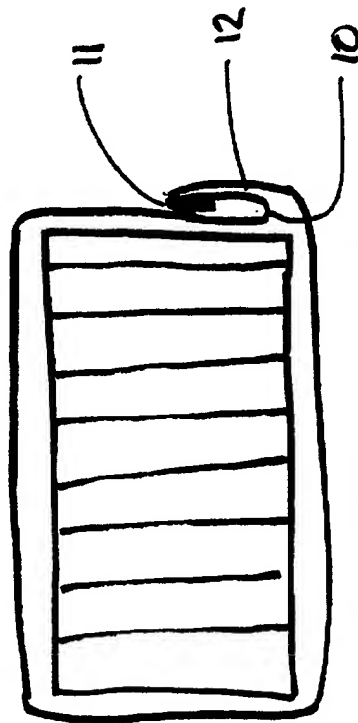


Figure 3

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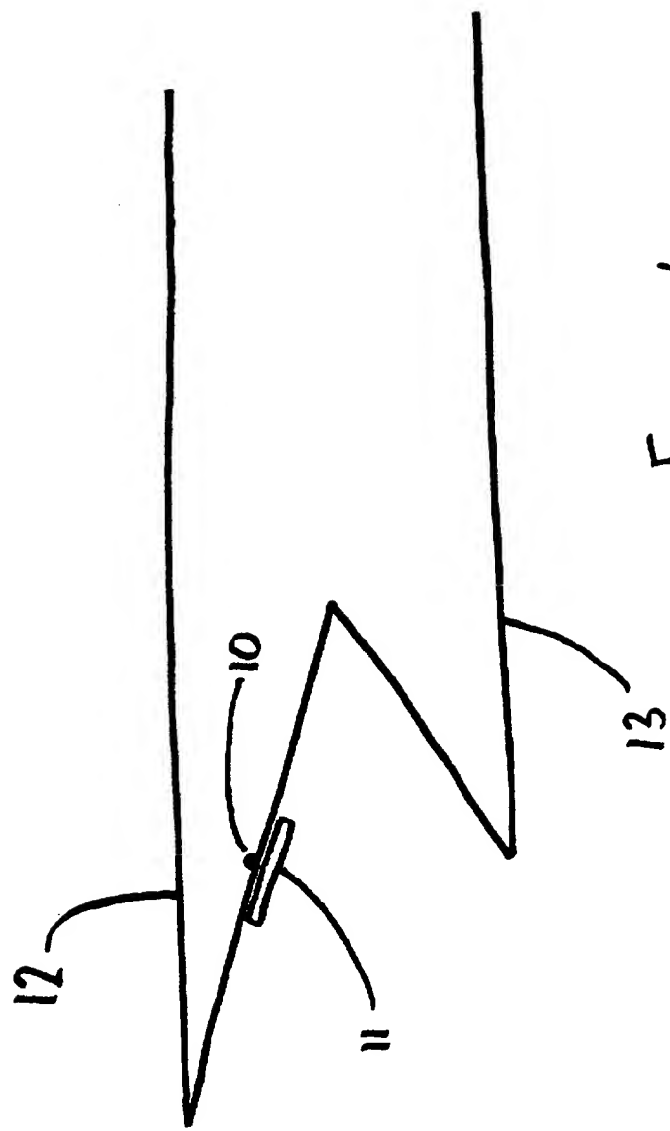


Figure 4

WRAPPING

This invention relates to wrapping, especially the wrapping of bread in bags.

Bread bags are formed from plastics film and have a closed end, normally provided with a gusset to accommodate the bulk of a loaf of bread, and an open end to receive the loaf. The open end is usually closed by twisting the plastic film and wrapping a length of adhesive tape around it, so that it can be reopened by removing the tape and then reclosed again if necessary.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved reclosable bread bag.

According to the invention, wrapping is provided in the form of a bag having a closed end, and an open end to receive the food and to be closed thereafter, characterised in that the closed end is pre-formed so that it can be opened and reclosed to allow removal and repackaging of the contents as necessary.

Preferably, the closed end of the bag is formed with a gusset comprising two folds of material, and one of these folds is extended relative to the other to form a closure flap.

Preferably, a line of weakness, such as perforations, is provided at the closed end of the bag for easy opening, and a reclose tape is provided to allow easy closing and re-opening.

The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a bread bag according to the invention in its fold-flat state prior to insertion of a loaf of bread;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section through the bread bag of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal section through the bread bag of Figure 1 when containing bread; and

Figure 4 shows a bread bag according to another embodiment of the invention in its fold-flat state prior to insertion of a loaf of bread.

The illustrated bread bag consists of a sheet of plastics film 1 which is folded back on itself about a fold line 2 at one end 3, and is folded a second and third time on itself along fold lines 4 and 5 so as to form a gusset 6 at this end of the bag 3 comprising a first fold 12 that extends beyond a second fold 13. The folded plastics sheet is heat-sealed to itself along its two longitudinal edges 7 and 8, and is left unsealed opposite the end 3 so as to form an open end 9.

In use, a loaf of bread is inserted into the bag through the open end 9, and the open end is then closed by heat sealing or twisting the film on itself and wrapping adhesive tape around the twist..

Subsequently, in order to use the bread, the bag is opened along a line of perforations 10 formed across the width of the inner layer of the extended fold 12 adjacent the fold line 5 of the shorter fold 13. The extended fold 12 of the gusset can then be folded across the opening line 10 to close the bag. A reclosable tape 11 provided across the inner layer of the extended fold 12 near the fold line 2 can then be used to attach the fold 12 to the bag on the other side of the opening line 10.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the corners of the extended fold 12 are removed, as shown in broken lines 14 in Figure 1, to make it neater when folded over.

In another embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figure 4, the reclose tape 11 is located so that it runs along the line of perforations 10 and is held by adhesive both sides and is peelable on one or both sides so that the bag can be opened along the line of perforations and re-closed using the tape.

Claims

1. A bag having a closed end and an open end to receive contents such as food and to be closed thereafter, characterised in that the closed end is pre-formed so that it can be opened and reclosed to allow removal and repackaging of the contents as necessary.
2. A bag as claimed in claim 1 in which the closed end of the bag is formed with a gusset comprising two folds of material, and one of these folds is extended relative to the other to form a closure flap.
3. A bag as claimed in claim 2 in which a line of weakness is provided at the closed end of the bag for easy opening.
4. A bag as claimed in claim 3 in which the line of weakness consists of a line of perforations.
5. A bag as claimed in claim 3 or 4 in which the line of weakness is formed in the extended fold in that portion adjacent the shorter fold.
6. A bag as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5 in which a reclose tape is provided at the closed end of the bag.
7. A bag as claimed in claim 6 in which the reclose tape is attached to the extended fold on that side of the line of weakness opposite the other shorter fold.
8. A bag as claimed in claim 6 in which the reclose tape extends along the line of weakness and overlays it before the bag is opened along the line of weakness.
9. A bag substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 0011934.7
Claims searched: 1-9

Examiner: Michael Young
Date of search: 21 August 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): B8K (KBA, KCA)

Int Cl (Ed.7): B65D 27/32, 27/34, 33/16, 33/18, 33/20, 75/58

Other: ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	US 4930906 (HEMPHILL)	
A	US 4638912 (GRAF)	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.